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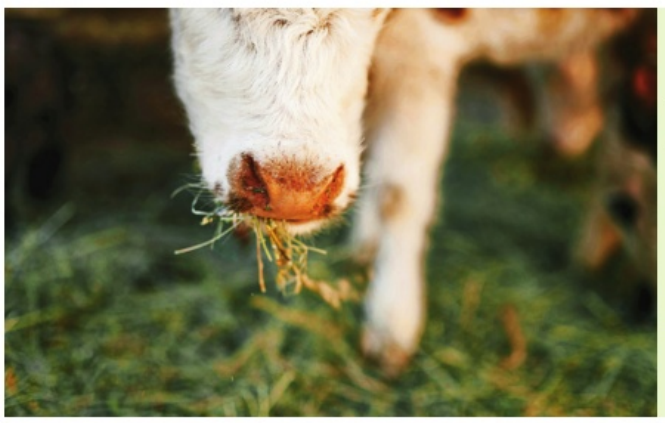
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 19 | Humidity 64% Partly Cloudy Sensex 82,890 | Nifty 25,356 | Gold 73,510 | Silver 89,244 | Dollar 83.88 | Euro 92.96 | GBP 110.08



PLANT MATTER

Saplings planted at Horamavu just to meet targets, say locals, as lake without fence or gate is open feeding ground for stray cattle

PAGE 3

COLD COMFORT

Most shopkeepers of 50 shops at Vijayanagar's Palike Bazaar are finding the centralised air-condition system too chilly

PAGE 5

Lucrative part-time jobs that promise big returns for doing simple jobs are ideal trap for population waiting for gainful occupations, which is exactly why 1,759 cases of this con recorded till August this year

TAKEN TO TASK

Of these, 158 fraud incidents led to combined loss of over ₹10 crore

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Easy money making sounds like a dream for many... until it turns into a nightmare. A total of 1,759 cases of task-related scams have been reported till August 2024, with the total financial loss amounting to a staggering ₹1,84,95,26,280.

While authorities have managed to freeze ₹1,67,53,74,725 of the fraudulent funds, they have only been able to recover ₹20,34,55,518, leaving many victims grappling with their losses.

Task fraud or online part time fraud, a new phenomena of the world of cybercrime, revolves around the manipulation of tasks and workflows for personal financial gain. It involves falsifying records, misrepresenting work, or tampering with task-related processes to siphon off money, resources, or sensitive information.

Among the cases reported, 158 fraud incidents stand out, leading to a combined loss of ₹10,95,28,995. While law enforcement managed to freeze ₹3,54,09,537 and recover ₹9,89,620, this is just a fraction of the total amount lost.

The North Division appears to be the worst hit, with 37 cases resulting in a loss of ₹2,94,41,337. Authorities have managed to freeze ₹2,57,22,437 in this division and recover ₹3,74,620.

"Avoid sharing personal information such as your address, Aadhaar number, marital status, or original marks card in the early stages of job applications and also don't mention it in the resume

— Chetan Anand, Cyber Crime Intervention Officer

How scammers lure their victims

The modus operandi of these scammers is as deceptive as it is simple. Victims are often lured through WhatsApp and Telegram messages offering lucrative part-time jobs, such as liking or subscribing to YouTube videos, writing Google reviews, or providing hotel and travel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

What use of STP? 12 lakes on brink

Report reveals sewage treatment plants at 15 lakes not working effectively as water quality is only going from worse to worst

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Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) sewage treatment plants (STPs) at 15 lakes across the city are not effective in improving the water quality of these lakes, according to a report by a city-based organisation.

While the water quality report of the STPs has all parameters conforming to the standards given by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), most of the associated lakes have recorded the worst water quality on more than one occasion over the past 31 months.

The 15 lakes and their STPs studies included Bhattarahalli, Munnenakolalu, Challakere, Herohalli, Lingadheeranahalli, Andrahalli, Kalena Agrahara, Ibblur, Kudlu Chikkakere, Uttarahalli, Dorekere, Byrasandra, Deepanjali, Dasarahalli, and Kammagondanahalli lakes.

The analysis underlines that the water quality of many of these lakes is not desirable, despite having treatment plants.

"Despite STPs installed at all the 15 lakes, 12 lakes recorded the worst water quality on more than one occasion over the last 31 months. Out of these, nine lakes were categorised under class E on more than

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Music festival

Bhoomija's "Jackfruit" festival, a festival of music by children is back. Renowned Indian classical vocalist and composer Shubha Mudgal reprises her role as the Festival Director for the festival's sixth edition. This year's exciting line-up of concerts and workshops is headlined by a unique inaugural concert performed by students/ persons with disabilities (PWD) of Shristi Special Academy. The showcase, entitled 'Sunny Symphony', celebrates inclusion at every level and is directed by renowned musician M D Pallavi. The young performers will present a range of popular Kannada/ regional songs with MD Pallavi herself on stage, conducting the show. **Where: Indian Music Experience Museum and MLR Convention Centre; When: September 20 to 22, 6 pm onwards**

02 Heal & transform

Welcome to the Heal & Transform Workshop at Shangri-La. Experience a groundbreaking, deep healing journey that integrates five distinct modalities. Led by certified experts, this workshop is designed to alleviate stress and anxiety, clear chakra blockages, and release fear and depression. Enjoy enhanced sleep, mindfulness, inner peace, patience, and self-confidence. Join for a transformative day dedicated to your emotional and mental well-being. **Where: Shangri-La Hotel; When: September 22, 11am- 6pm**

03 Musical revival

Experience the beloved melodies of MS Subbulakshmi like never before, brought to life by a talented ensemble of musicians performing with live instruments. This unique live music concert will feature the classic songs of MS Amma, lovingly revamped into modern arrangements under the masterful direction of renowned music director Ramesh Vinayakam. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: September 22, 6pm**

Celebrating democracy

Students dressed as BR Amedkar and Mahatma Gandhi take part in a human chain on Mysore Road, organised as part of 'International Democracy Day' celebrations, in Bengaluru

Temporary suspension of rural service for medicos

State had made rural service mandatory for final-year MBBS students, so that 1 year service would alleviate shortage of doctors in these areas

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1st year MBBS students in practical class, at Bangalore Medical College, which had resumed after COVID lockdown (File photo)

The Department of Health and Family Welfare has temporarily suspended the rule requiring MBBS and postgraduate students in Bengaluru to mandatorily serve in rural hospitals. This decision has brought some relief to MBBS students. Rural hospitals face a shortage of doctors.

The state government had made rural service mandatory for final-year MBBS students, with the intent that their one-year rural service would help alleviate the shortage of doctors in these areas. However, since even qualified doctors are often reluctant to work in rural areas, students, too, had expressed their opposition.

Sources say that NEET PG counselling is scheduled later this month and many students will be entering hospitals in rural areas during this time. This will help reduce the shortage of doctors to some extent. If students were sent to rural areas before the counselling process, it would disrupt the vacant doctor positions. This would lead to an improper allocation of medical students. Given these circumstances, many students had requested the department to pause rural service, leading to this temporary suspension. According to the previous counselling schedule issued by the health department, the registration process was set to take place from September 19 to 22, with the final results on September 25. However, this process has now been put on hold.

NEET classes to begin from October 1

Meanwhile, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has instructed that selected candidates must complete state-level admissions by October 23 after the counselling process concludes. Any remaining seats, after the third round of counselling, will be filled through extended counselling, which will be conducted between October 25 and 29. By November 5, the NMC must submit the list of admitted candidates for degree programmes.

The revised academic schedule for NEET has been released, with instructions to start classes between October 1 and October 6. Medical colleges have been directed to begin academic sessions within this timeframe for candidates who secure admissions through the second round of the national-level All India Quota counselling by September 27 and the state-level counselling by September 19. Further, the NMC has informed that candidates must complete the admission process by October 5, with colleges required to submit the necessary information by October 30. Candidates who participate in the third round of counselling must be provided the opportunity to join colleges by October 9, and the NMC will finalise the admission details by October 18.

Sources say that if students were sent to rural areas before the NEET PG counselling process, it would disrupt the vacant doctor positions

1,200 saplings planted at lake land turn easy fodder

Horamavu Lake has no gate or fence and saplings were planted without tree guards, which means stray cattle can drop by for a readymade meal any time

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If the state of more than 1,000 saplings planted at Horamavu-Jayanti Nagar is any indication, it seems the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Forest Department is in a terrible hurry to plant saplings without applying any thought. Lake activists and environmentalists are pleading with the BBMP to try and protect the saplings planted on the lake land that are easy prey to wandering cattle as there is no fence or tree guard to keep them safe.

"The planting of around 1,200 saplings here is just an empty attempt to meet the target of planting saplings during the monsoon. The BBMP Forest Department made arrangements to plant saplings at Horamavu-Jayanthi Nagar Lake without making a provision for tree guards or completing the fencing work at the lake that has no gate to prevent not only stray cattle but also motorists, including auto rickshaws," said Ayyappa Samy, a volunteer of Save Horamavu Lake and a resident of Esther Enclave, Horamavu.

Ayyappa Samy said the BBMP Lakes Department has not installed a gate and the fencing work is incomplete on one side of the lake. "The BBMP Forest Department is least bothered about the safety of the saplings. It just wants to show proof that the saplings are planted," he said.

Demanding that the Lakes Department complete the fencing work to prevent stray cattle from entering the lake land, Balaji Raghotham, a lake volunteer, said that he wanted to be part of the programme for planting saplings but withdrew from it after coming to know that the lake has no fence. "I enquired with the BBMP Forest Department employee about tree guards but he told me that there was no such provision for saplings planted on the lake land.. What is the use of planting saplings without tree guards as the lake does not have a fence to begin with?' asks Raghotham.

"The BBMP has been spending a huge amount for planting saplings but not many of those saplings survive due to lack of tree guards and maintenance.

Condemning the BBMP for the delay in stalling the gate and completing the fencing work, a resident on the condition of anonymity, claimed that the BBMP officials have no commitment to protect water bodies and saplings. "The BBMP has been spending a huge amount for planting saplings but not many of those saplings survive due to lack of tree guards and maintenance. I appeal to the authorities concerned to fix the problem of the fence and gate at the lake as early as possible," said the resident.

BBMP Range Forest Officer (Mahadevapura) Pushpa said that she visited the lake a few days ago. "I have advised the BBMP Lakes Department to complete the fencing work and install a gate at the entrance of the lake. I am planning to make some arrangements (thorny shrubs) to protect the saplings from stray cattle," said the Forest Range Officer.

The BBMP Special Commissioner (Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Management) Preeti Gehlot, in a rejoinder – No saplings are being planted on lake bunds; planting is done with consultation – dated September 2, 2024, claimed that the BBMP's annual tree plantation programme at 40 lakes across five city zones was being conducted in consultation with school children and citizens around the lake premises.

The Special Commissioner, in a rejoinder, said the programme involved planting nearly 20,000 saplings in and around 40 lakes across the BBMP Zones such as Yelahanka, Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli, RR Nagar, and Dasarahalli. Horamavu-Jayanthi Nagar Lake is in Mahadevapura Zone.

Cops must adhere to 19 guidelines for safer night traffic

With increase in night traffic and consequent rise in accidents, Joint Commissioner of Traffic MN Anucheth has issued 19 comprehensive guidelines for traffic police officers working night shifts in the city. As per the guidelines, the officers are required to monitor any nighttime events within their jurisdiction, ensuring smooth traffic flow by being aware of the attendance of distinguished guests and senior officials. When handling complaints related to law and order from women during the night, officers must promptly forward these to the relevant police stations, take necessary actions, and keep the complainants informed. If required, officers should accompany the complainants to the law and order stations.

An official said, "On night duty, officers must collect and maintain contact information for key individuals such as crane operators, volunteers, political leaders, auto drivers, hospital supervisors, ambulance drivers, and civil defense personnel within their jurisdiction. During non-peak hours, they should ensure that heavy vehicles are operational and manage any stranded vehicles using cranes or towing services."

He added that information from police stations regarding such vehicles on outer ring roads should be gathered and in the event of a nighttime accident, officers must quickly transport the injured to hospitals and initiate the process to identify the perpetrators. "Cops should ensure their wireless devices are fully charged, respond to messages from the control room, and take appropriate actions as necessary. Identifying accident-prone areas, locations with inadequate electricity, and coordinating with relevant departments to implement safety measures is crucial. Officers should also promptly address fallen trees to clear debris and maintain traffic flow."

Additional instructions include adhering strictly to senior officers' directions before starting night shifts, ensuring the availability of two well-equipped motorcycles as per station officers' checks, and responding promptly to accidents involving women, senior citizens, or children. Officers must facilitate the smooth passage of dignitaries and emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire brigade trucks.

Vigilance is required to monitor areas where miscreants might engage in welding or other activities at night. Officers should oversee the proper functioning of signal lights, pedestrian signals, CCTV cameras, and government property.

Managing traffic to prevent congestion at hotels, bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues is essential, and all officers are expected to wear reflective jackets for visibility and safety. **BMB**

HC raps 3 city cops for malicious chargesheet against students

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The Karnataka High Court has voiced grave concern regarding the behaviour of three Bengaluru city police officers who maliciously filed a chargesheet against two students. The officers falsely claimed that the consumption of ganja was "proved" in the FSL report, despite the report clearly stating that no traces of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances were found in the students' blood samples.

The court emphasised that the officers cannot be allowed to escape responsibility for their actions, which have negatively impacted the lives of the young students. The students have been losing job opportunities, including overseas prospects, due to the ongoing prosecution. The court has instructed the State government to initiate a departmental inquiry against the officials involved and submit a report on the action taken within 12 weeks.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the order while quashing the criminal proceedings initiated by Varthur police in 2019 against the petitioners, who are now approximately 25 and 29 years old.

The petitioners were allegedly caught near a college in Varthur police limits while smoking ganja mixed with cigarette powder in a smoking pipe. The court noted, "The maliciousness is apparent on the face of the record. The report of FSL in unequivocal terms indicates that blood samples did not contain any contraband substance or even its derivatives, but the police filed the chargesheet recording that FSL report has confirmed the presence of a contraband substance."

The court also pointed out the mystery surrounding the seized ganja, stating, "Where the sample of seized ganja is, is a mystery." The court highlighted that the fate of the 15 grams of ganja, allegedly seized from the petitioners, is not mentioned anywhere.

"After the seizure, it [ganja] is neither reported nor an inventory is drawn, nor the sample is sent to Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL). Ganja of 15 grams is not a high quantity for it not to be sent to the FSL.

Therefore, the presence of 15 grams of ganja as drawn in the panchanama is a canard and shrouded with improbability and to be disbelieved," the court observed.

The court discovered that the officers had also violated several mandatory provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, which must be followed when seizing suspected narcotic drugs.

The seizure was not recorded before the authorized gazetted officer or the magistrate, an inventory of the seized ganja was not prepared, and samples of the ganja were not sent to the FSL for testing as required by law.

The court expressed shock that the complainant-police officer, who should have been listed as witness number 1, was not even included among the 10 witnesses cited in the chargesheet.

SC ruling: Homebuyers' big win, landowners now liable

Supreme Court's decision holds both builders and property owners accountable for flat defects, ensuring ongoing responsibility even after agreements end

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The Supreme Court recently issued a significant ruling, holding both builders and landowners accountable for defects in flat construction. This ruling is a major win for homebuyers, ensuring landowners cannot evade responsibility for construction flaws. They will now be held liable for any faults or shortcomings in the building. Disputes over construction defects must be properly addressed, offering greater protection to buyers.

Recently, K-RERA, which oversees accountability for flats, mandated repair work to prevent water leakage. Following this, the Supreme Court ruled that landowners involved in Joint Venture Agreements (JVA) with builders are also liable for construction defects.

> **"Cancellation of Power of Attorney between landowners and builders does not absolve landowners from responsibility with builders** – Court

This decision has provided new hope to homebuyers, as landowners previously often avoided responsibility, leaving builders to address the issues. Consequently, buyers were forced to approach consumer courts. Since the RERA Act was enacted in 2016, filing complaints with K-RERA has become common practice. However, landowners would only take responsibility under pressure from buyers, with hundreds of cases still pending before K-RERA. The Supreme Court's ruling now promises to facilitate resolution of these cases.

What is the essence of the ruling?

The two-judge bench passed this ruling while hearing a civil appeal filed by Akshay, who challenged the 2017 order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC). After hearing arguments from both sides, the court opined that "the cancellation of the Power of Attorney between landowners and builders in a service deficiency case does not absolve landowners from joint responsibility with builders." It emphasised that even after the Power of Attorney is revoked, the Joint Venture Agreement between the landowners and the builders remains valid.

The court cited a letter from the landowners in which they revoked the Power of Attorney but noted that the expression "from now on" used in the letter does not absolve landowners from liability for activities that took place after the agreement was terminated. The court upheld the NCDRC's decision in a case from Maharashtra, asserting that the Power of Attorney, even if withdrawn in 2014, remains in effect until legally concluded, holding the landowners accountable for actions taken by the builder during that time.

Serious implications

This Supreme Court ruling, which states that landowners cannot escape their contractual obligations by unilaterally withdrawing their agreements when the rights of third parties like homebuyers are involved, will have far-reaching consequences for the real estate sector. It has been widely appreciated, as it emphasises the importance of the agreement's terms and the legal protection provided to consumers.

SC ruling stops landowners from avoiding their obligation by cancelling agreements, impacting the real estate sector

From steel cutlery to clay idols: Green Ganesha Chaturthi

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The residents of SNN Raj Etternia on Silver County Road have shown how festivals can be celebrated in an eco-friendly way. During this year's Ganesha Chaturthi, the community focused on reducing waste and using reusable items, and the community made use of only steel cutlery, setting an example for many others.

With over 800 flats and 2,000 residents, SNN Raj Etternia's focus on celebrating with no waste, no disposables, and using only reusable items has made a big impact. "The need of the hour is green celebrations," said one resident, proud of the progress the community has made.

For the Mahabhoj (grand feast), over 700 people attended, and more than 450 of them brought their cutlery. For those who didn't, the organiser used a steel cutlery bank and received assistance from local vendors. "We encouraged people to bring their utensils by giving them faster service, while those without had to wait for space inside the hall to eat. This clever approach motivated many to go home and bring their cutlery, reducing waste," said Arvind Khanduja, one of the residents.

The use of steel cutlery during the event

Another highlight of the celebrations was a clay Ganesha-making event, where 150 families, including kids, made their Ganesha idols. This hands-on activity helped raise awareness about using natural materials instead of harmful ones. "We wanted to teach our kids about being eco-friendly in a fun way. The community also held a Narayana Seva event, providing meals for over 150 workers and maids who work in the apartment complex. The meals were served using steel cutlery, ensuring that no waste was created during the event," said Khanduja.

The shift towards eco-friendly celebrations wasn't always easy. The organisers shared that when they started these efforts in 2019, there was less interest and even some pushback. But over time, more people have joined in and supported the cause. "We've seen a big change in how people understand the need for green celebrations," added Khanduja.

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Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Footpath fixed

Hesaraghatta

The broken footpath slab on Hesaraghatta Road was promptly fixed on the same day it was featured in the BM columns.

Borewell repaired

Mathikere

BWSSB fixed a borewell in Mathikere after it was reported in the BM columns.

Path problems

Dasarahalli

A footpath in front of the BBMP office in Dasarahalli Zone is in poor condition.

Why is professor tied to monsoon control room?

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The selection of an assistant professor for a contract to maintain a temporary control room during the monsoon in 2021 has raised eyebrows. The fact that his mother works as a health officer in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has further sparked questions about whether the contract was awarded based on eligibility or other reasons.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, Dr G Sukumaran & Associates (Advocates and Consultants) sent a notice to Dr Sr Mary Louisa, principal of Jyoti Nivas College on September 5, stating that their client had written and submitted a complaint on April 15, 2024, regarding Siddaraj Chirag, an assistant professor in the Department of Commerce. The complaint alleges that Siddaraj Chirag, who runs a proprietorship named AVS Enterprises, submitted bills to the BBMP without performing any work.

In a reply to the complaint of BBMP Officers and Employees Welfare Association president, A Amruthraj, the principal Dr Sr Mary Louisa written a letter on April 17 to Amruth Raj stating that she would like to thank him for the gesture of good conduct in bringing to the notice of the college

the issues involved about Siddaraj Chirag, Assistant Professor in the Department of Commerce and Management.

> **"As per the service rules of College, our management will take proper action against these issues if it is within the purview of our capacity** –Letter

"As per the service rules of the College, our management will take proper action against these issues if it is within the purview of our capacity. Kindly give us some time to initiate these procedures in consonance with the letter you have submitted to us," read the letter by Dr Sr Mary Louisa.

AV Hemaraju, a resident of BSK 3rd Phase, has also complained to the Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) Additional Director General of Police to initiate suitable action against Siddaraj, who got the contract for the maintenance of a temporary control room at Yelahanka Zone in 2021 without having any experience in such maintenance. "Chiraj has influenced the BBMP authorities to draw Rs 11, 09,728 without doing any work. I appeal to you to take legal action against Chirag," the letter to BMTF ADGP read.

He also complained to the Karnataka Lokayukta on September 13.

Underground market faces chilly challenges

Sri Krishnadevaraya Palike Bazaar in Vijayanagar struggles with its central AC system, as many shop owners find it too cold; few vendors appreciate cooling for future hotter months

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KAUSHIK JN

Centralised air-conditioning system in Palike Bazaar

The Sri Krishnadevaraya Palike Bazaar, recently inaugurated in Vijayanagar as the first underground air-conditioned market in Bengaluru, has faced operational challenges despite its modern infrastructure. With 79 shops, only 50 of which are currently operational, the primary complaint from the business community revolves around the centralised air-conditioning system. Several business owners, particularly middle-aged individuals and those with respiratory issues, have expressed concerns over the market's "cold conditions."

According to the shop owners, the air conditioning, while designed to enhance comfort, has made it difficult for many to work in such a 'chilly' environment. One businessman noted that while the bazaar's aesthetic appeal is commendable, the constant cold caused by the AC makes it uncomfortable to stay for extended periods, especially for those with health issues like asthma. Due to this, many shop owners have been intermittently switching the AC on and off, attempting to find a balance between comfort and functionality. Another businesswoman shared her struggles with cold and cough, attributing it to the low temperatures in the market and frequently requesting the management to turn off the AC to provide relief. However, not all vendors share these sentiments. Some argue that the AC is only a concern for the elderly shopkeepers, while others have no issues with it at all. They acknowledge that the current weather in Bengaluru is cool, so air conditioning may not be necessary for now but could be essential during the hotter months.

> **"Underground location of the bazaar necessitates cooling, especially during the summer months when the enclosed space could become excessively warm** –Official

In response to these concerns, a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official said, "The AC system is an integral part of the market's design, which was modeled after Delhi's Palika Bazaar. The underground location of the bazaar necessitates cooling, especially during the summer months when the enclosed space could become excessively warm. The officials have also assured that they are coordinating closely with the shop owners to address their concerns while ensuring that the market remains functional and comfortable. The Palike Bazaar is more than just an AC-equipped market; it represents a significant investment by the local government. With an estimated total cost of 13 crore, the project was funded in two phases, 5 crore for the fiscal year 2017-18 and 8 crore for 2021-22. The market, spanning 136 metres in length and 11 metres in width, is well-constructed with granite flooring, sensor-equipped glass sliding doors, escalators, and goods lift facilities. To address potential flooding, a separate drainage pipeline has been installed around the market to direct rainwater away from the stalls."

Despite the state-of-the-art facilities, the implementation of such advanced infrastructure in an underground market has led to unforeseen challenges, such as the current concerns with the AC. "However, with the cooperative efforts between shopkeepers and officials, adjustments will likely be made to accommodate the needs of all stakeholders. As the city's first underground air-conditioned market, it is expected to benefit the residents of the Vijayanagar and Govindarajanagar constituencies by providing a modern, comfortable, and attractive shopping environment. Once fully operational, the bazaar will likely address these initial teething issues and emerge as a vibrant marketplace in the heart of the city", added the official.

Security breach at event with CM

Man attempts to jump onto the platform

Bengaluru witnessed a serious security breach during a high-profile event at Vidhana Soudha, held as part of International Democracy Day celebrations. The Vidhana Soudha police arrested a 30-year-old man named Mahadev Nayak, an automobile employee from Kanakapura after he jumped onto the platform where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was seated and attempted to approach him.

The man, who had gained access to the event with a guest pass, suddenly rushed onto the stage and tried to offer a shawl to the Chief Minister. The quick response of the security personnel prevented any direct interaction. The intruder was immediately dragged off the platform and taken into custody by the police. Preliminary investigations revealed that the man was carrying a valid guest pass for the event, after which the event proceeded without further incident.

On the occasion, CM said, "In Karnataka, our government is dedicated to building a state where democracy thrives, communities live in harmony, and secularism is upheld. But the threat to these values persists. Together, we must remain vigilant, stand united, and continue to nurture Karnataka as a peaceful garden of all communities."

CM also said "I have instructed the Cauvery Corporation officials to submit a proposal immediately to deliver water to the last part of the VC canal. Those who are conspiring to stop the guarantees of the state government are not working for the development of Mandya. So, it has been proved that those who spend their time only talking have no concern for the farmers, the backward and the Dalits. Not a single work of any department has been stopped. So do not pay attention to the lies that the government has no money. I had started the Purigali irrigation scheme earlier . The work will be completed soon." **–ANI**

Mysuru marks masterly macaque success story

Lion-tailed macaque bred at facility; only 2,000 of these primates in country

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At the wildlife rehabilitation centre in Mysuru, the endangered lion-tailed macaque has successfully bred, marking the first time such a breeding success has been achieved in Karnataka. Since 2015, under the Central Zoo Authority's species development project, continuous efforts have been made to conserve and develop the lion-tailed macaque population. The infant was born two months ago, bringing the total number of macaques in the facility to four.

An official said, "In an effort to maintain biodiversity, the Central Zoo Authority has implemented a species development programme that focuses on breeding endangered animals in captivity with the goal of releasing them back into the wild. The authority designates which species should be bred in each zoo, and the zoos follow these guidelines. There are species development centres in various parts of the country, including Mysuru and Chennai. The primary goal of the species development programme is to reintroduce animals into areas where their population has decreased. There are approximately 2,000 lion-tailed macaques in the country, making their conservation as important as tiger conservation."

D Mahesh Kumar, Executive Director of Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens said, "In addition to the lion-tailed macaque, efforts have been underway over the past nine years to develop populations of other species such as the Indian wild dog (dhole), gaur (Indian bison), and striped hyena.

Deforestation, encroachment, illegal logging, & hydroelectric projects threatening habitat of macaques

> **Central Zoo Authority has implemented a species development programme that focuses on breeding endangered animals in captivity and releasing them back into the wild** –Official

The programme also includes species such as the Nilgiri langur and various jungle fowl species. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the lion-tailed macaque as an endangered species on its Red List. This particular species is found only in the Western Ghats of the world."

The lion-tailed macaque's habitat stretches from Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve to the Sharavathi and Aghanashini river valleys in Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district. However, deforestation, encroachment, illegal logging, and hydroelectric projects are threatening the habitat of these macaques.

Vulture sanctuary needs support

The government had established Asia's first wildlife sanctuary for the protection of vultures at Ramadevara Betta in Ramanagara 12 years ago and yet the government has failed to provide the necessary infrastructure for this only vulture sanctuary to date. Vultures are among the endangered species disappearing from the world, and the sanctuary established for their protection is also being neglected as time goes by.

Sources say that the sanctuary is facing a significant shortage of staff. Spanning a vast area of 856 acres, only a handful of staff are working at the sanctuary. Neither the department nor the government has provided the staff with any special training on the life cycle of vultures. The staff appointments are merely for the sake of it, with no expert veterinarians hired either.

Wildlife enthusiasts report that vultures are suffering from a food shortage at the sanctuary. Since vultures primarily feed on dead animals, they are forced to travel long distances, including places like Kollegal, to find food. In addition to food, a proper habitat is crucial for vultures, and the department has not taken adequate steps to provide for this, leading to widespread criticism. Moreover, a new Bengaluru-Mysuru highway runs next to the vulture sanctuary. These birds, which prefer peaceful environments, are being disturbed by the constant traffic near their habitat.

Bengaluru Rural MP Dr CN. Manjunath said, "There is a need to ensure that vultures do not join the list of extinct species. Efforts are being made to operationalise the vulture breeding centre at Bannerghatta." Meanwhile, Mohammad Mansoor, RFO, Ramanagara said, "Unlike other animals, it is difficult to identify individual vultures. Awareness programmes on vulture conservation are being organised."

Discounts give shot in arm to electronics, auto sales

After sluggish sales in the first five months of this fiscal, automobiles and consumer electronics companies saw some surge in demand due to discounts and promotional offers during the ongoing Ganesh Chaturthi and Onam festivals, multiple reports said.

"In view of festivals like Onam, Navratri, Diwali, and Dussehra, electronics, automobile and smartphone companies are offering discounts of up to 30 percent to customers," the reports stated.

Maruti Suzuki reported a 10 percent increase in bookings in Kerala before Onam and deliveries in Maharashtra and Karnataka rose similarly on the first day of Ganesh Chaturthi.

Two-wheeler sales surged by 15 to 16 percent during Onam. During the festive season, vehicle sales may increase by 15 percent from the average of 3,30,000 units in the first five months of the current financial year.

Sales of consumer electronics may see an increase of 7 to 8 percent compared to last year. Sales of frost-free refrigerators increased by 15 percent during Onam. However, sales of single-door refrigerators have declined by 6 to 7 percent.

Sales of fully automatic machines have increased by 12 to 13 percent, while those of semi-automatic machines have increased by 4 to 5 percent.

Earlier a report said that the upcoming festive season in India is likely to see the creation of up to 10 lakh jobs with a notable surge in gig and female workforce participation. Many industries are gearing up for a rise in hiring, including retail, hotel, e-commerce, logistics, consumer goods, banking, financial services, insurance (BFSI), and retail, according to NLB Services, a technology and digital talent solutions provider.

Among these industries, e-commerce will see the highest demand with a 22 percent increase over last year. **–IANS**

DK Shivakumar is pushing ahead with his ambitious Skydeck project in the city, despite facing opposition from certain quarters. On Sunday, he travelled to New York to personally observe the execution of a similar Skydeck project, aiming to gain insights and firsthand experience to ensure the success of his own initiative.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

'Don't think about Bengalureans'

During a recent programme, Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna pressurised CM Siddaramaiah saying, "Without catering to the whims of Bengaluru's citizens, the price of milk should be increased by Rs 5 per litre and the additional revenue should be directed to benefit the farmers. The cost of animal feed has become expensive, and the price of cattle has also risen. As a result, dairy farmers are not making any profit. Therefore, it is impossible to run the government while constantly trying to appease the people of Bengaluru. Hence, the price of milk should be increased to benefit the farmers." Reacting to this, the CM said that he will take a call soon after discussing with stakeholders.

Kannada prescription beku

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has stated that there are significant technical aspects involved in mandating doctors to write prescriptions in Kannada. Therefore, he emphasises the need for a detailed discussion on the feasibility and challenges of implementing this requirement before it is put into practice. "The medical field, which is dedicated to preserving people's health, is highly extensive and complex. Significant changes require dialogue with all stakeholders before implementation. It is not merely a matter of issuing a directive," he said.

Unusual theft

A clay Ganesha idol placed for sale by the roadside during the Gauri-Ganesha festival was stolen in the city. The incident occurred on Andrahalli Main Road. A vendor had stocked around 30 Ganesha idols by the roadside to sell for the Gauri-Ganesha festival. After completing the day's sales on the evening of September 12, he covered the idols with a tarpaulin and went home. Later that night two miscreants arrived on a two-wheeler, removed the tarpaulin, and stole one of the Ganesha idols before fleeing the scene. The theft was captured on a nearby building's CCTV camera. Police told the media that no formal complaint has been filed regarding the incident.

No more silence

When questioned about Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's alleged reticence concerning the case involving his grandson, Prajwal Revanna, Gowda firmly responded, "Why are falsehoods being spread about my silence? I've taken all necessary actions. As soon as the news broke, I expelled Prajwal from the party and publicly urged him to surrender. Anyone plotting to undermine my party is merely dreaming. We have the blessings of thousands of our supporters."

Learn Kannada

In a recent railway inspection, Union Minister for Railways V Somanna offered a unique piece of advice to officials, which is to learn Kannada. He emphasised, "I expect officials to fully engage with their assigned tasks. More importantly, I urge everyone to learn Kannada at the earliest. Invest just three rupees in a book on learning Kannada—you'll quickly pick up the language and be able to communicate it to me effectively." **–Sridhar Vivan**

Star is born: Bengaluru FC begins with victory at ISL

Vinith shines on debut as Bengaluru FC triumphs over East Bengal FC

The Sree Kanteerava Stadium buzzed with anticipation as Bengaluru FC (BFC) began their Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 campaign against visitors East Bengal FC (EBFC) in Bengaluru on Saturday. The electrifying atmosphere was fitting for a special day, particularly for 19-year-old attacking midfielder Vinith Venkatesh, who made his ISL debut under the watchful eye of head coach Gerard Zaragoza.

From the outset, Vinith played a pivotal role in the Blues' energetic start against the Red and Gold brigade of Kolkata. His efforts were rewarded with a moment of brilliance. Seizing an opportunity, Vinith unleashed a low, drilled shot that zipped

From the outset, Vinith played a pivotal role in the Blues' energetic start against the Red and Gold brigade of Kolkata. His efforts were rewarded...

across the face of the East Bengal goal, leaving goalkeeper Prabsukhan Gill helpless as the ball nestled in the side netting. The stadium erupted in celebration. "It was a really special night for me, scoring against such a big team in my own city. I feel really happy," said Vinith, as quoted by ISL. With arms outstretched, Vinith rushed towards the ecstatic crowd, only to be enveloped in a jubilant embrace by captain Sunil Chhetri.

The veteran striker, who has achieved unparalleled success for both club and country, celebrated with the exuberance of a teenager, thumping Vinith's chest in sheer delight.

The strike not only secured the points for Bengaluru FC but also heralded the arrival of a promising young talent.

Earlier this year, Vinith was named Bengaluru FC's Reserve Player of the Year. He capped this achievement by scoring the decisive goal in his senior team debut. Last season, he showcased his leadership skills by captaining the team in the Reliance Foundation Development League against Chennaiyin FC. Head coach Gerard Zaragoza's composed guidance has been instrumental in Vinith's growth, providing the nurturing yet disciplined environment needed to turn potential into performance. "He had a good first half, but he's young. He has quality, but he needs to improve his physique, his movements, and his tactical understanding of the game. We'll work with him to make him better," Zaragoza said, as quoted by ISL.

"He was nervous; it was his first match at Kanteerava, playing alongside players like Sunil Chhetri and Rahul Bheke. Then came a slight injury, and we hope it's nothing serious. He'll be ready to play again soon," Zaragoza added.

Vinith Venkatesh of BFC clash against East Bengal Hector canton, at the ISL football match at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday; Inset: BFC fans during the match

As the final whistle blew, it was clear that Vinith's debut goal was a moment to cherish--a glimpse of a bright future for Bengaluru FC and Indian football. **– ANI**

GST Council forms GoM to review tax rate on health, life insurance

The GST Council on Sunday constituted a 13-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to suggest GST rate on premiums of various health and life insurance products and submit its report by October 30.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary is the convenor of the GoM. The members of the panel include members from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. The 54th GST Council meeting on September 9 decided to set up a GoM to examine and review the present tax structure of GST on life and medical insurance. A final call by the Council on the taxation of insurance premiums is likely to be taken in the next meeting in November based on the GoM report.

Currently, 18 per cent of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is levied on insurance premiums. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the panel also include suggesting tax rate of health/medical insurance including individual, group, family floater and other medical insurance for various categories like senior citizens, middle class, persons with mental illness. Also, suggest tax rates on life insurance, including term insurance, life insurance with investment plans whether individual or group and re-insurance.

"The GoM is to submit its report by October 30," 2024," said the Office Memorandum issued by the GST Council Secretariat on the Constitution of GoM on Life and Health insurance. Some opposition-ruled states, including West Bengal, had demanded complete exemption of GST on health and life insurance premiums, while some other states were in favour of lowering the tax to 5 per cent. **– PTI**

BM Finance Fundas

UPI transaction limit set to change from next week

Soon, individuals can use the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to pay taxes up to Rs 5 lakh. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has increased the transaction limit for tax payments using UPI to help millions of taxpayers in the country.

In a circular dated August 24, 2024, NPCI said, "With UPI emerging as a preferred payment method, there is a need to enhance the per transaction limit in UPI for specific categories... In view of the above the per transaction value limit in UPI has now been enhanced to Rs 5 lakh for entities under categories aligned to tax payments."

NPCI asked banks, payment service providers and UPI apps to ensure that the transaction limit should be increased for the MCC 9311 category of verified merchants. "Acquiring entities must ensure that the classification of their merchants within MCC 9311 strictly adheres to the tax payments only. They shall ensure that entities are added to the 'verified merchant' list after proper due diligence," NPCI stated. The merchants shall also ensure that UPI as a payment mode is enabled for the increased limit for the tax payments category, NPCI mentioned.

NPCI has asked all the members — banks, payment service providers and UPI apps to ensure compliance with the increase in tax payment transaction limit by September 15, 2024.

Commenting on the latest development, Rahul Jain – CFO, of NTT DATA Payment Services India says, "NPCI announcement to increase the transaction limit to Rs 5 lakh for tax payments using UPI, from Rs 1 lakh earlier is a significant move, propelling India towards digitally inclusive economy. This initiative will strengthen the tax-collection system, reduce the cost of tax collection, and make tax payments more convenient for taxpayers. This also means more benefits to taxpayers in terms of seamless, transparent, secured, and ease of making high-value transactions."

This, effectively, means that an individual can use UPI to make tax payments of up to Rs 5 lakh in a single transaction, starting September 16, 2024. With this, individuals can now make UPI payments of up to Rs 5 lakh per transaction for the following categories: a) tax payments, b) hospital and educational institutions, and c) IPOs and RBI retail direct schemes. The merchant should be verified to make these transactions. Do keep in mind that the increased limit will apply only to certain transactions. Further, you have to check with your bank and the UPI app whether they are allowing it or not.

UPI transaction limits for various payments

The standard UPI transaction limit is Rs 1 lakh for peer-to-peer transactions. However, banks can decide their own UPI transaction limits. For instance, the UPI transaction limit in Allahabad Bank is Rs 25,000, according to Google Pay UPI issuing bank-wise limits. Whereas HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank have allowed UPI transactions of up to Rs 1 lakh for peer-topper payments. On top of this, different UPI apps have varying transaction limits as well.

There are other transaction limits for

different types of UPI transactions. UPI transactions related to capital markets, collections, insurance, and foreign inward remittances have a limit of Rs 2 Lakh per day.

Banks can also decide individual daily UPI transaction limits. So at the end of the day, how much money you can transact through the UPI app will depend on your bank and the UPI app that you are using.

— By Anulekha Ray, ET Online

They will make you an offer you better refuse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

feedback. The scammers even post fake screenshots in these messaging groups, showcasing large sums of money supposedly earned by other participants.

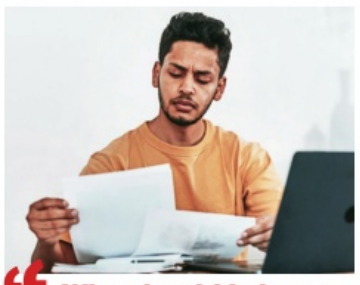
At the initial stages, victims receive small payments, usually between ₹150 to₹1,000, for completing simple tasks. But there's a catch: while the victims can see the money in their accounts, they are unable to withdraw it. This illusion of easy earnings keeps victims hooked, leading them to invest more time and often, eventually, their own money in the scam.

It is shocking that many of the victims are educated individuals, predominantly falling between the age group of 30 to 50 years.

Psychology of the Scam

One might assume that the other people in these WhatsApp and Telegram groups are victims like themselves. However, many of these participants are part of a vast and untraceable network of scammers who perpetuate the fraud by sharing convincing fake screenshots. This well-organised system ensures that the fraud keeps spreading and that victims remain unaware until significant damage has been done.

At the core of this scam is psychological manipulation. Scammers use a tactic called social engineering to deceive their targets. Social engineering is the art of manipulating people into divulging confidential information or performing actions that they wouldn't normally do. These tactics often include impersonation, phishing emails, or other forms of deceptive communication, all designed to appear legitimate and trustworthy.



"Why should I share my personal information with you? Why should I click on the link? Why do you need my bank details?

Role of AI and deepfakes

As technology evolves, so do the methods employed by scammers. Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, particularly deep fakes, are becoming a common tool in their arsenal. Deepfake technology allows scammers to create convincing but entirely fabricated images, videos, and audio which are edited using AI tools and which may depict real or non-existent people that make their fraudulent schemes even more difficult to detect.

However, as Chetan Anand, a National Cyber Security Scholar and Cyber Crime Intervention Officer, explains, "Cybercriminals hack our minds more than they use AI tools." According to him, the key to preventing such scams lies not in sophisticated technology but in developing a questioning mindset. He urges the importance of asking the simple question: "Why?" for example, Why should I share my personal information with you? Why should I click on the link? Why do you need my bank details? etc".

Combat Job Frauds

Anand says, "First and foremost, avoid sharing personal information such as your address, Aadhaar number, marital status, or original marks card in the early stages of job applications and also don't mention it in the resume, remove 'a' basic detail and give basic details such as contact info and your name. Additionally, before accepting any job offers, it's crucial to verify the authenticity of the company and be cautious of those asking for payments in return for job training."

Desperation for employment can make one vulnerable to such scams, which is why awareness is crucial. Should you find yourself a victim of such fraud, the first step is to call 1930 for reporting cyber financial frauds, which is dedicated to cybercrime assistance. It's also essential to report the fraud to your bank within 72 hours, the golden window for freezing funds, and to file a formal complaint at the nearest police station or online through the official cybercrime portal.

Cybercrime education

In addition to vigilance, Chetan Anand urges the public to invest in education about cybercrime. He recommends the Cyber Crime Intervention Officer (CCIO) programme, a 30-hour course that is NSD Empanelled and the government of India recognised certification under AICTE NEAT 2.0 approved by the Ministry of education.

Site to raise complaints: https://cybercrime.gov.in (to register the complaint); ISAC site: https://isacfoundation.org/cyber-crime-intervention-officer/

STP water quality reports of BBMP incomplete

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

4 occasions and Uttarahalli had the worst water quality on 16 occasions in KSPCB's monthly water quality report. This points to the ineffectiveness of the treatment plants in maintaining lake water quality," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur of ActionAid Association, a city-based NGO that conducted the analysis.

The STP water quality reports furnished by BBMP through an RTI application were found to be incomplete too. Out of 15 STPs, complete water quality analysis reports of only three STPs -Bhattarahalli, Herohalli, and Iblur – were available from January to October 2023.

Inconsistency in parameters tested was found in 67% of the STPs.

As per KSPCB's treated sewage standards, the treated water is analysed based on parameters such as pH, Biological oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, suspended solids, Ammoniacal nitrogen, total nitrogen, and fecal coliform.

However, some of the STPs' reports did not include these testing parameters. While the Fecal Coliform measure was missing in one report, Ammoniacal Nitrogen and total Nitrogen values were missing in nine.

Experts say monitoring ammoniacal nitrogen and total nitrogen is important as high levels lead to eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, and decreased dissolved oxygen, causing harm to aquatic life and potentially leading to "dead zones". They also suggest comprehensive evaluation and effectiveness of all the STPs.

"Evaluating STPS' water quality and effectiveness is crucial in maintaining a healthy aquatic ecosystem. The analysis of STPs, including treatment processes, equipment functionality, and operational efficiency needs to be undertaken under professional guidance.

It might be a good idea to hand over the lake STPs to BWSSB as the agency is proficient in managing and maintaining water quality. Alternatively, BBMP should set up a monitoring system of STPs to ensure better lake water quality," added Pachhapur.

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I Praveen Hebbla S/O, Mahadevayya R/o No 58/2 Flat No 302 3rd Flr Habitat Ochre Canara Bank Colony Main Road Bengaluru - 560061 have changed my name to Praveen Mahadevayya Hebbal.

I Jayashri W/O, Ganesh Rao Harihara Rao R/o 47, Indira Nilaya, 10c/2, 1st Main, 10th Cross, Srinidhi Layout, Konanakunte, Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to Jayashree Ganesh Rao.

I, Udaya Bhasker R/o 106/2-1,greenwood Layout, Hennur Vaddarapalya, Bangalore-43 have changed my minor daughter's name from Laya Bhasker Payinadath to Laya Bhasker.

I, MK Lalithamma W/o Krishnamurthy have changed my name frm Krishnamurthy Lalithamma born on 09/05/1951 residing at 342, 11th crs, Sampige rd, Malleshwaram, Blr 03 vide aff dated 12.09.24.

I Udaya Bhasker Payindath and Udaya Bhasker.P S/o, Kumaran Vaidier R/o 106/2-1,Greenwood Layout, Hennur Garden, Bangalore-43 have changed my name to Udaya Bhasker for all future purposes

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Any good news?

Reframing how we talk about having kids or not

The language used around having children or not shapes societal views, highlighting the need for inclusive terms to respect all reproductive choices.

The debate over falling birth rates has taken centre stage worldwide, with some people vilifying those who choose to not have children. The debate over family size has become contentious, particularly in Europe, Asia and, most recently, the US presidential race.

The controversy sparked by Republican vice-presidential candidate JD Vance's disparaging use of the phrase "childless cat ladies" highlights a deeper issue: the language we use to describe those without children and the societal pressures they face.

This discourse often places the blame for low fertility rates on specific groups in Asia, particularly young people and feminists.

Men, and especially women who have no children, have found themselves in the firing line across Southeast and East Asia — the region with the highest number of people without children.

Labels such as "herbivores" for young Japanese men uninterested in dating, or the "silver tsunami" for ageing populations, reinforce harmful stereotypes.

According to research in Taiwan, people without children are perceived to be a "national security risk", while in South Korea younger women are blamed for chasing individualism and a "hedonistic lifestyle" over family obligations.

In Malaysia, choosing not to reproduce has variously been labelled as "unacceptable" by a religious affairs minister and even something that can, according to the National Security Council, lead to "conflict and crisis". Across the region, people without children are targets of pronatalist policies, but also stigma. Even common greetings are based on the assumption that every adult woman in most Asian countries is expected to be heterosexual, married and likely a mother. In fact, women with no children were less stigmatised in the past than today. The term "childless" itself is problematic, as it suggests a lack or something missing, similar to being "homeless" or "friendless".

This negative connotation fails to capture the reality of those who actively choose not to have children. It also adds an unnecessary rhetorical burden to people who might long for children but are unable to have them.

> **Instead of vilifying those who don't meet societal expectations of an ideal family size, focus on the challenges of demographic shifts**

Problems with labels

Studies have shown that in recent decades, the term "childfree", or "childfree by choice" has gained traction as a more positive, but also a more accurate term. It recognises the autonomy and freedom behind this decision.

Defining everyone without children as "childless" does not reflect the various options, choices and pathways which people's reproductive careers take across their lives.

It is, of course, empowering to choose your own label, even if — as recent research has revealed — some people don't seem to care so much how they are labelled or how they refer to themselves.

Indeed, these labels can be owned and embraced such as the concept of "lying flat" in China, which is regarded as passive-aggressive resistance to the societal expectation of having a high-pressure career.

But, it could be argued that this self-identification can make it harder for governments and other organisations to accurately classify populations. While labels such as "childfree" may empower some, they also complicate demographic analysis.

In multilingual contexts, these terms can lose meaning or fail to translate, making it difficult to count or categorise populations accurately.

However, people don't need to rely on these labels to understand family size. Instead, simply describe people by the number of children they have, without attaching any value-laden terms.

There needs to be more than this label change to affect the discourse around the acceptability of different family sizes. This can only occur when the overall narrative surrounding demographic changes. The obsession with classifying people based on their reproductive choices feeds into a larger narrative that vilifies those who don't conform to societal norms.

This narrative has roots in historical fears about population growth, which have justified controlling women's reproductive rights for centuries.

When defining policy solutions to changing demographic circumstances, it is much more helpful to stop blaming people and instead address the real challenges ahead of us. This involves looking holistically at how population ageing, growth and decline will variously impact economies and societies.

Instead of vilifying those who don't meet societal expectations of an ideal family size, more focus could be placed on the real challenges posed by demographic shifts. This includes addressing issues such as family and fertility policies, job insecurity, education, gender inequality, and, in some societies, the pressures of Confucian familism (a belief that prioritises family over individual needs and desires).

Respecting people's reproductive choices and changing the language used to discuss family size is a necessary first step.

(By Stuart Gietel-Basten, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 360info.org)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Drug combo can minimise agitated delirium in patients with advanced cancers

A combination of drugs can help reduce symptoms of agitated delirium, a common end-of-life condition for patients with advanced cancers, according to a new study.

Treatment with a combination of haloperidol and lorazepam reduced symptoms of agitated delirium, compared with haloperidol alone, according to the study led by researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

David Hui, professor of Palliative, Rehabilitation and Integrative Medicine, said that advanced delirium is common and highly distressing in many patients with advanced cancers receiving palliative care.

"But we've had limited evidence on the use and effectiveness of treatment for this condition," said Hui. "The RECORD trial offers valuable data and insights that support the use of therapy in the palliative care setting in order to provide patients with greater comfort," he added.

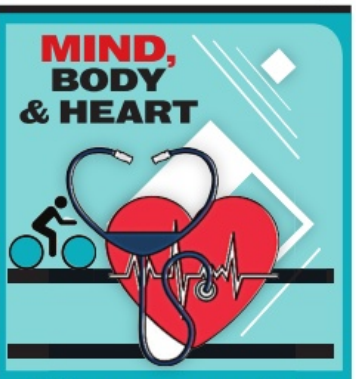
Agitated delirium occurs when a patient's brain function begins to deteriorate as their cancer advances, resulting in many patients beginning to behave aggressively or abnormally. Although the use of medication in this setting has been debated, these results suggest

tailored combination treatments can significantly improve symptoms for patients at the end of life.

In the study, patients that received the combination of haloperidol and lorazepam experienced a significant decrease in agitated delirium when measured at 24 hours with a standard scoring tool. In that same time frame, this group needed no more than two rescue doses, or additional medication provided as needed.

The team also observed a significant decrease in agitated delirium in patients treated with lorazepam alone, but these patients required more rescue doses. The placebo group saw very little reduction in delirium, and, in some scenarios, patients needed as many as five rescue doses.

"By proactively personalising treatment of this distressing symptom, we are providing caregivers, families and patients an opportunity for meaningful connection," Hui said. **–IANS**



All you need to know about...

Relationsbip expectations

Gender role assumptions
In many Indian households, traditional gender roles are still distinguished. A woman might expect her partner to handle all financial decisions while she takes care of the home. If these expectations aren't discussed as the relationship becomes more serious, resentment can build over time.

Emotional disconnect
When emotional desires or needs go unspoken in a relationship, it creates distance. This could involve wanting more physical intimacy, scheduling regular date nights, or even reducing screen time. If you withhold this information and expect your partner to figure it out, it will lead to frustration and disappointment. Remember, your partner isn't a mind reader; discussing your desires is the only way to grow and stay connected.

Family expectations
In Indian culture, families play a significant role in relationships. Unspoken expectations about the roles you and your partner will play in each other's families can cause resentment and anger. For instance, if a girlfriend expects her boyfriend to engage more with her family by attending dinners and outings but doesn't communicate this, unmet expectations can lead to conflict. Open dialogue about family roles is vital to maintaining harmony.

Effective communication
It's important not just to communicate but to ensure thatit is effective. Avoid sounding accusatory or nagging. Be patient and explain your needs maturely. If they struggle to respond maturely, that's a different issue, but your goal should be to express yourself in a way that doesn't make them feel attacked. For eg, use "I" statements like "I would appreciate more help with the dishes" instead of "You never help around the house." **–Shahzeen Shivdasani, relationship expert, for Femina**

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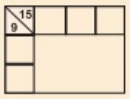
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

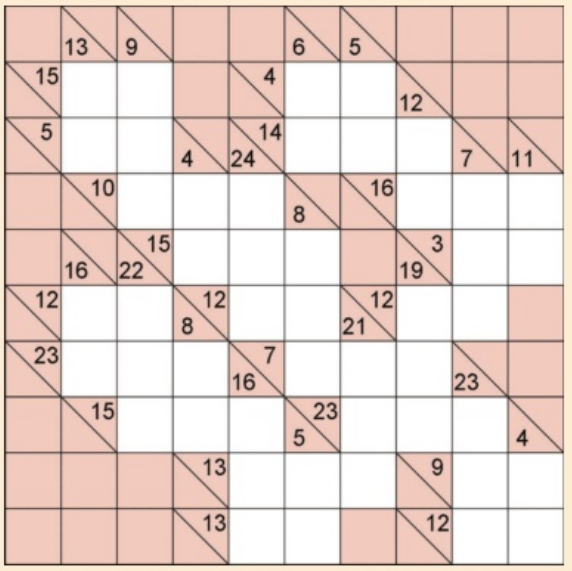
An airplane flies 800 km with the wind behind it in the same time it would fly 720 km into the wind. The wind speed is 30 km/hour. What is the speed of the airplane without the wind?

Kakuro

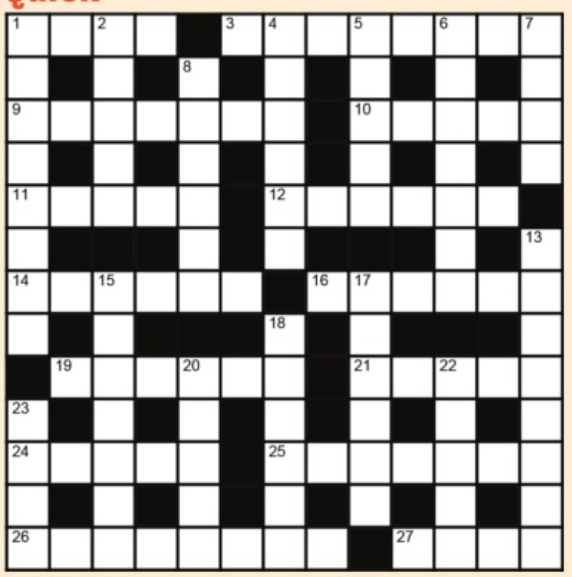
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Close up (4)
3 Owing money; not out of debt? (2,3,3)
9 Ca in the periodic table (7)
10 Get on a horse (5)
11 Mrs. Paul McCartney (5)
12 Whinnies (6)
14 French tower (6)
16 A devout request (6)
19 Lounge or sofa (6)
21 Eastern country (5)
24 Poppy product (5)
25 Language of the Romans (7)
26 Produced as offspring (8)
27 Among or in the company of (4)

DOWN

1 Doubtful or suspect (2-6)
2 Narnia lion (5)
4 Nominating (6)
5 Tourist destination which used to be the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire (5)
6 Approximately or nearly? (7)
7 Official obligation (4)
8 Optical illusion (6)
13 Invested in holy order (8)
15 Liberating (7)
17 Ethnic (6)
18 Make up one's mind (6)
20 Lure astray (5)
22 Form of speech (5)
23 Grave (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS G

EOZ KVJRE REZH ES CZEEVMC EOZ EOVMCR NSQ PYME SQE SK BVKZ VR EOVR: LZDVLZ POYE NSQ PYME.

Linemaro

I was going through your email and noticed you loved cats. Me too!

Mindchow

A ship is always safe at shore but that's not what it is built for

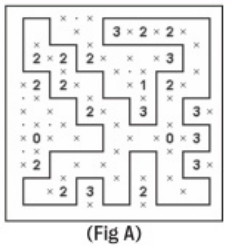
Joke of the day

Have you heard about the amazing new chimpanzee diet for weight loss? All you have to do is eat 20 bananas a day and spend about 12 hours climbing trees

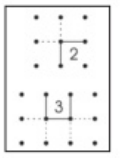
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

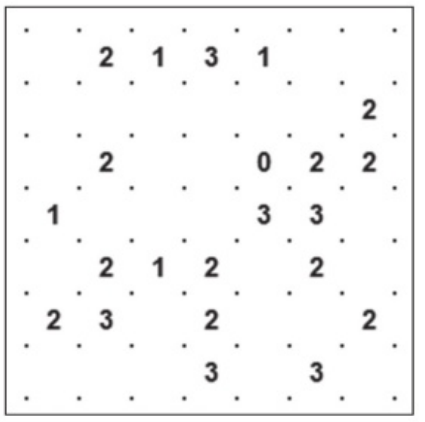


(Fig B) Not Allowed

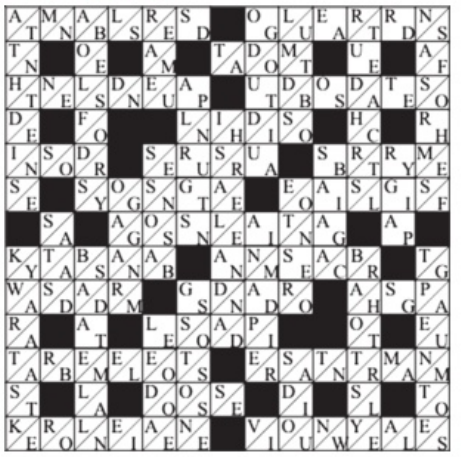
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2 C	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Alecs; 6 Led on; 7 Diana; 8 Raree; 9 Do urn

DOWN

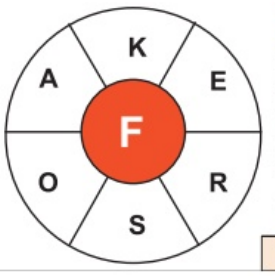
1 Roans; 2 Carol; 3 A due I; 4 Renal; 5 Den Ed

Mensapuzzle

What is the missing number?

10 5 11 7 12 16 9 13 ? 14 20 15

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3	1	2		8	6	
						1		2
9				6	4			7
		6			9			5
			6		7			
1			5			6		
4			7	9				8
6		7						
	5	9		4	1	3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15
4 4 6 9

Medium = 2
2 2 7 9

Hard = 16
2 5 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

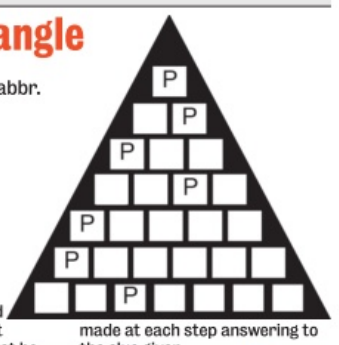
Differences: 1. Tie is longer. 2. Bow tie is missing. 3. Plant is taller. 4. Windowsill is added. 5. Woman's hair is different. 6. Jacket sleeve is longer.

Riddler

Which three letter word completes the following longer words: c—r, sh—ly, ch—l, ch—rone?

Alpha triangle

1 Parking sign
2 Andhra Pradesh, abbr.
3 Pod seed
4 Dracula prop
5 Position
6 Royal place
7 Competent

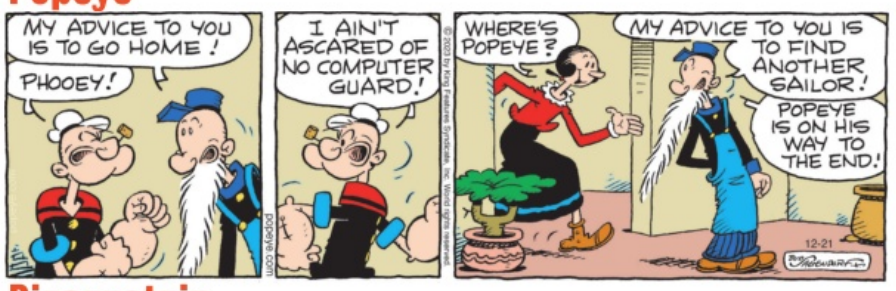


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


MY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO GO HOME !
PHOOEY!
I AIN'T ASCARED OF NO COMPUTER GUARD!
WHERE'S POPEYE ?
MY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO FIND ANOTHER SAILOR!
POPEYE IS ON HIS WAY TO THE END!
12-21

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SHOOTING THESE PAGES FROM THE ACTUAL COMIC BOOKS...
AND PRINTING THEM WITH A WARM HERSHEY BAR!
ARTIST'S ARE NEVER HAPPY WITH HOW THEIR WORK IS PRINTED.
ATOMIK
KO
6-12
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, with the moon's blessings, you may have happiness around you. Projects that were stopped will now come on track. Relationships with your spouse may be stronger. You may perform well at work. Singles may likely find a soul mate. Love birds may make plans to convert the relationship into marriage. You may get promotions in your job, job seekers may find a good job.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, with the help of blessings from elders, you may become confident. Your working efficiency may be increased. You can start innovations in terms of business and work. You may have smart gains after a few investments. Opponents and rivals are now under control. You may help a needy person by giving money. You may bring some creative stuff for your house.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, things are mixed. You may be busy with kids. You may expect a short trip, related to kids' academics. You will also enjoy your romantic moments. Couples may hear good news in terms of a new baby's birth. You may plan to go for an outing with your family or friends. Natives in the job may plan for higher education for an increase in skill set.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today may be somehow disappointing, you may be impatient, and you may not be able to focus towards your goals. Investments in the fixed assets are advised to postpone for a while. It is advised to take care of your parent's health.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel energetic and courageous, and you may likely buy some important household stuff for your home or office. Your inner strength may likely help complete your projects before the deadline. Disputes with the siblings may likely be resolved. There may be some short trips related to work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, the time is favourable. You may be able to control your expenditures. Your savings may likely be increased. You may be busy at home. You may bring some artefacts to your home. You may also plan to renovate your office. There is an atmosphere of joy and happiness in the family. Love birds may likely plan to get married. Singles may get a soul match. Kids will perform well.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, things are now under control, you may feel new energy, which may give you confidence. You may likely find a new way, which may tend you towards success at work. Parental business may reach new heights. Chronic illness may likely be cured. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, there may be some dull feeling in you, which may make you upset and impatient. You may likely face health-related issues. It is advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. You are advised to keep an eye on hidden enemies and opponents; you might be a victim of a conspiracy. You should avoid making any argument.

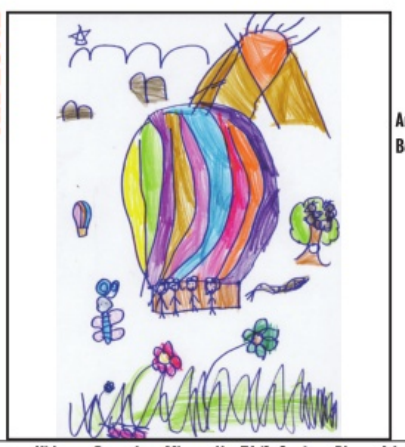
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today may be good for your professional life. This is a time when you may be busy in your professional and job front. You may become passionate towards your work, which may give you mental tiredness, and you may not be able to reach on time for family or social get-together. Your spouse may support you in maintaining domestic harmony. Love birds may expect to make important decisions in terms of marriage. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of suitable jobs with the help of friends.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. You may be busy at work. You will likely increase your network in terms of work. With the help of elders' blessings, you will implement new plans into your work for success shortly. You may plan to visit close relatives or may plan for a party with friends.

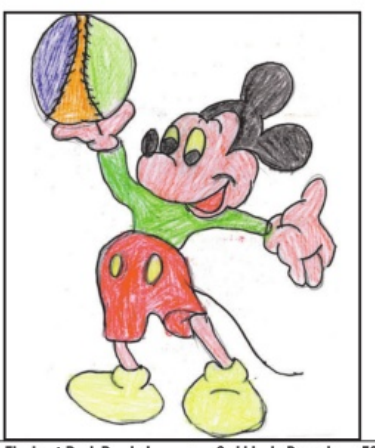
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, there may be a dull feeling in you, which may make you sensitive and emotional. You may have some health-related issues also. It is advised to avoid rash driving. You are advised to keep an eye on hidden enemies and opponents; you might be a victim of a conspiracy. It is advised for love birds to keep patience and avoid making arguments on worthless topics.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may try to analyse yourself and figure out your mistakes. Self-analysis will boost confidence at work. In the partnerships, disputed matters may likely be resolved. Warmness with the spouse may likely be improved. Students may make quick decisions in terms of their careers. Singles may find a good match.

KIDZONE



Anika Arka, Bengaluru



Anantha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
800 / (x + 30) = 720 / (x – 30)
800x – 24000 = 720x + 21600
80x = 45600
x = 570 kph

BULL'S EYE
fake, faker, fare, fear, fore, fork, FORSAKE, freak, safe, safer, serf, sofa

RIDDLER
Ape: caper, shapely, chapel, chaperone.

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	L	E
O	L	D	E	N
N	A	I	A	D
A	R	E	R	E
R	O	U	N	D

STRIKE OUT

E	O	N	I	A	N	■	V	O	W	E	L	S	■	■
T	A	■	D	O	E	■	D	■	L	■	T	■	■	■
A	R	M	L	E	T	■	R	A	T	T	A	N	■	■
R	■	T	■	L	O	D	I	■	■	T	■	U	■	■
A	D	A	M	■	G	N	A	R	■	A	S	A	■	■
K	A	B	A	B	■	A	N	E	A	R	■	T	■	■
S	■	G	O	S	L	I	N	G	■	P	■	■	■	■
S	Y	O	N	G	E	■	O	A	S	I	S	■	■	■
N	O	R	■	S	U	R	A	■	S	T	Y	E	■	■
E	F	■	L	I	D	D	O	C	■	H	■	■	■	■
H	E	L	D	U	P	■	U	B	O	A	T	S	■	■
A	M	B	L	E	D	■	G	U	A	R	D	S	■	■

QUICK

B	E	G	O	T	T	E	N	■	A	M	I	D	■	■
M	■	N	■	P	■	D	■	L	■	O	■	E	■	■
O	P	I	U	M	■	I	T	A	L	I	A	N	■	■
T	■	E	■	E	C	■	■	T	■	D	■	I	■	■
S	E	T	T	E	E	■	C	H	I	N	A	■	■	■
D	■	R	■	D	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	D	■	■
E	I	F	F	E	L	■	P	R	A	Y	E	R	■	■
L	■	■	G	■	■	G	■	■	L	■	■	O	■	■
L	I	N	D	A	■	N	E	I	G	H	S	■	■	■
A	■	A	R	I	■	P	■	G	■	Y	■	■	■	■
C	A	L	C	I	U	M	■	M	O	U	N	T	■	■
H	■	E	■	D	U	B	O	A	T	S	■	■	■	■
E	L	D	U	P	■	U	B	O	A	T	S	■	■	■
T	E	■	M	■	T	O	M	■	E	■	A	■	■	■
S	■	M	■	A	■	A	■	O	■	■	U	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
18 is the missing number. Starting with the two outside numbers (10 and 15) and working towards the middle, each pair adds up to 25

QUOTE UNCODE
The first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: Decide what you want.

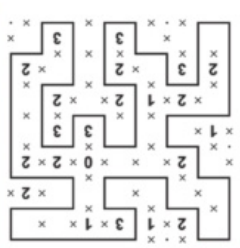
SUDOKU

8	5	9	2	4	1	3	7	6
6	2	7	3	5	8	9	1	4
4	3	1	7	9	6	2	5	8
1	7	4	5	8	2	6	9	3
2	9	5	6	3	7	4	8	1
3	8	6	4	1	9	7	2	5
9	1	2	8	6	4	5	3	7
5	6	8	9	7	3	1	4	2
7	4	3	1	2	5	8	6	9

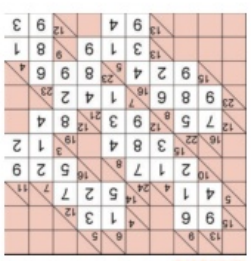
ALPHA TRIANGLE
P, AP, Pea, Cape, Place, Palace, Capable.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 9 + 6 – 4 = 15
Medium
2 + 7 / 9 x 2 = 2
Hard
2 x 2 + 7 + 5 = 16

LOOP



KAKURO



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New chapter

Deepika gives fans glimpse into new phase of her life

Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone and her husband, actor Ranveer Singh, have recently welcomed their first child- a baby girl, on September 8, 2024. Since then, the couple has been completely absorbed in the delight of parenthood with fans eagerly waiting for updates from their favorite stars. On Sunday, for the very first time, Deepika spoke about her new chapter of life as a mother.

Taking to her official Instagram handle, Deepika Padukone changed her bio to, "Feed. Burp. Sleep. Repeat." Deepika and Ranveer publicly announced the arrival of the baby girl on social media when they posted a heartfelt note on social media that read, "Welcome Baby Girl 8.9.2024.Deepika & Ranveer".

The post was soon flooded with comments from celebrities and fans. Kareena Kapoor wrote, "Congratulations mommy and daddy from saifu and Beboo…God bless the little angel ." Ananya Panday "Ranveer and DeePee congratulations on your baby girl!!! Only joy and bliss to you both. Even the Hollywood actor Will Smith shared his wishes with a comment that read, "Congratulations Mama & Papa!!"

Deepika and Ranveer were spotted seeking blessings from Mumbai's Shri Siddhivinayak Temple, a day before they went to the hospital for the delivery. On the work front, Deepika was last seen in 'Kalki 2898 Ad'.

As per reports, the actress is going to be on a maternity break till March 2025.

Ranveer and DP will be seen next in Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again' set to release on Diwali.

–ETimes

REALLY FUNNY

Actor Rajkummar Rao has shared a hilarious video with her 'Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video' co-star actress Triptii Dimri on Sunday.

Taking to his photo-sharing platform, the 'Trapped' actor, who has eight million followers on Instagram, shared a video in which Rajkummar and Triptii were hilariously laughing like there's no tomorrow.

Rajkummar's captioned the video post that read, "Kuch nahi yaar #VickyVidyaKaWohWalaVideo dekhi hamne. Usi ke scenes ke bare mein soch rahe hain aur Hansi ruk nahi rahi hai. Aap bhi dekhna. Releasing in theatres on 11th October". (Not much friend, we have seen #VickyVidyaKaWohWalaVideo. I am thinking about those scenes and can't stop laughing. You also see).

In the video, Rajkummar was seen in a red jacket with black pants while Triptii was looking mesmerizing in a gorgeous blue gown under the black coat.

'Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video' helmed by 'Dream Girl' fame director Raaj Shaandilyaa under T-Series, Balaji Motion Pictures, Wakaoo Films and Kathavachak Films is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on 11 October 2024.

Apart from Rajkummar Rao and Triptii, the comedy-drama also features Vijay Raaz, Mallika Sherawat, Archana Puran Singh and others.

–IANS

Many moods of Tamannaah

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia has shared a slew of pictures featuring her "mood since 1989."

Tamannaah took to Instagram, where she posted a bunch of images from her childhood days. She shared the pictures from her album. The first featured the actress in a grumpy mood, in the next few photographs, she was seen flashing a toothy smile as she posed with another child.

"Mood since 1989," she wrote. On Sunday morning, the actress took to her Instagram stories, where she posted a picture from an international airport. She mentioned that her flight was delayed. In the image, the actress was seen wearing a dark hued dress paired with sunglasses. She posed for the camera as she was seated on the carpeted floor.

For the caption, she wrote: "Delayed flight = photoshoot." Earlier this week, the actress shared pictures dressed in bright shaded lehenga to celebrate Ganesh Utsav.

"Ganpati Bappa ready," the 34-year-old star wrote as the caption. On the work front, Tamannaah, who is dating Bollywood actor Vijay Varma, took the Internet by storm with her dance performance on the song "Aaj Ki Raat" in the comedy horror film "Stree 2," directed by Amar Kaushik. A spiritual sequel to the 2018 movie "Stree", it stars Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkummar in the lead, alongside Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek and Aparshakti Khurana.

–IANS

Rooting for LA Olympics

The Paris Olympics may have been a bit of a downer but actress Jessica Alba, is making sure that the upcoming Los Angeles Olympics turn out to be a huge success.

The actress recently took to her Instagram, and shared an array of pictures from her board meeting organised to discuss the preparations underway. She also penned a long note in the caption, and shared that it has been an honour for her to share the space with so many "legends".

She wrote, "Such a great afternoon with so many legends! Thank you to @cnbc and @boardroom for inviting us to chat about what's been going on behind the scenes to prepare for the LA 2028 Olympics After our first board meeting back in 2018, I knew working with such an incredible team to dream up what these next Olympic games would look like would be nothing short of amazing". She talked of how the city is preparing to blend sports, music, entertainment, fashion and business for the upcoming edition of the Olympics.

–IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Good support

Director Pratheek from Mysuru is delighted with the support shown by Sandalwood actors, including Crazy Star Ravichandran, Navarasa Nayaka Jaggesh, and Ramesh Aravind, for his maiden movie Dhruvathaare that is scheduled for release on September 20. The movie's trailer was released on A2 Films YouTube channel recently and received good response.

Apart from direction, script, editing, Pratheek has also played the lead in Dhruvathaare.

"I began my career in Sandalwood as assistant director 14 years ago. I have also made short films Roommate and Kuposhan which got the fourth place among 4,000 short films screened in Venice. I am very happy to get the opportunity to realise my long-pending dream of helming a movie. Dhruvathaare is about social media. The movie revolves around a married couple and their happy moments and domestic problems. A few real incidents are the inspiration for me to write the script for this film," said Pratheek.

The movie is bankrolled by Ganesh Kumar under the GP Films banner. "The shoot of the movie began three years ago and wrapped up in 75 days but post-production work took considerable time."

Pay & watch

Prashant Mayur, the director, actor, and producer of short film Joker Actor, has come up with a unique idea to promote his film. If it becomes a success, many producers and directors of short films are expected to benefit. Prashant Mayur wants to release Joker Actor, which has Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar's voice in the beginning and ending, on YouTube and fix Rs 20 as a fee to watch the 33-minute-long film. "Joker Actor revolves around art, murder, and money. Those who want to watch it have to pay Rs 20 using a QR code. If my idea becomes a success, many people who are making short films will be benefited," Prashant Mayur said.

He said the shooting of the short film was completed in six days at an estimated budget of Rs 5 lakh. "This is the second movie made under the Mayura Talkies banner. I am planning to release Joker Actor in Telugu too. If all goes well, it will be released in Telugu on September 21," he said.